



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

[OMB No. 0906-00XX– New]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Public Comment Request

Information Collection Request Title: Application for Federally Supported Health Centers

Assistance Act/Federal Tort Claims Act Particularized Determination of Coverage

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, HRSA announces plans to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting the ICR to OMB, HRSA seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

DATES: Comments on this ICR must be received no later than **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to paperwork@hrsa.gov or by mail at: the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Room 10-29, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, email paperwork@hrsa.gov or call Samantha Miller, the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, at 301-594-4394.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the ICR title for reference.

Information Collection Request Title: Application for Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act/Federal Tort Claims Act Particularized Determination of Coverage.
OMB No. 0906-00XX– New

Abstract: Section 224(g)-(n) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act (42 U.S.C. § 233(g)-(n)), as amended, authorizes the Secretary to “deem” entities receiving funds under section 330 of the PHS Act (HRSA’s Health Center Program) as PHS employees for the purposes of establishing eligibility for liability protections under Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act (FSHCAA), including Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) coverage, for covered activities and individuals. Health centers submit deeming applications annually to HRSA’s Bureau of Primary Health Care, which administers the Health Center Program and the Health Center FTCA Program, in the prescribed form and manner to obtain deemed PHS employee status for this purpose.

FSHCAA and 42 C.F.R. § 6.6(d) authorize FTCA coverage for the provision of medical services to non-health center patients in certain situations. Section 224(g)(1)(C) of the PHS Act and 42 C.F.R. § 6.6(d) explain the criteria by which the Secretary will determine whether FSHCAA’s liability protections, including FTCA coverage, will extend to the provision of medical care to individuals who are not patients of the health center. 42 C.F.R. § 6.6(e) identifies examples that are approvable for FTCA coverage under 42 C.F.R. § 6.6(d) and section 224(g)(1)(B)(ii) of the PHS Act if there is compliance with all other coverage requirements under FSHCAA. 42 C.F.R. § 6.6 (e)(4) provides examples of specific activities that the

Department has determined are eligible for FSCHAA's liability protections, including FTCA coverage, without the need for a specific application for a coverage determination. As indicated in 42 C.F.R. §6.6(e)(4), if any element of an activity or arrangement does not fit squarely into the examples listed in 42 C.F.R. §6.6(e), the covered entity should request a particularized determination of coverage. Acts and omissions related to services provided to individuals who are not patients of a covered entity that do not fit squarely within the examples in 42 C.F.R. § 6.6 (e)(4) will be covered only if the Secretary makes a coverage determination under 42 C.F.R. § 6.6 (d).

The FTCA Program uses a web-based application system within HRSA's Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) system for deeming applications. These electronic application forms decrease the time and effort required to complete the older, paper-based approved deeming application forms. HRSA is proposing a new paper application that will be transitioned into an electronic application within the EHB system for Particularized Determinations (PD). PDs extend liability protections under FSCHAA, including FTCA coverage, for certain medical services provided to individuals who are not patients of a covered entity. This application will help ensure health centers provide all the necessary information required to make determinations appropriately and efficiently in response to their requests. By including the application within the EHBs, health centers will have access to all information from prior applications and have that information readily available if making future requests. The paper form of the application is an interim solution to support health centers until the electronic application becomes available in the FTCA module of the EHBs. After the electronic application is available in the EHBs, all PD requests will be submitted electronically, and the paper application will no longer be used for submissions.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: PDs of coverage applications are provided in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 6.6 and must address certain specified criteria for coverage determinations to be issued. The application provides the Bureau of Primary Health Care with

the information that is essential for evaluation of compliance with legal requirements and making a deeming determination of coverage under 42 C.F.R. § 6.6.

Likely Respondents: Respondents include recipients of Health Center Program funds with deemed PHS employee status under Section 224(g)-(n) of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n)).

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing, and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR is summarized in the table below.

Total Estimated Annualized Burden Hours:

Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
Application for Federally Supported Health Center Assistance Act (FSHCAA)/Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Particularized Determination	12	1	12	2	24
Total	12	1	12	2	24

HRSA specifically requests comments on: (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Maria G. Button,

Director, Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 2023-04711 Filed: 3/7/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/8/2023]